

THE CHURCH AT THINGVELYIE, BUILT OF CORRUGATED IRON.

At Thingvellie, in the Land of Frost and Fire.

THE ICELANDIC PONIES

A SPARSELY SETTLED COUNTRY WITH NO RAILROADS.

Travelers Must Take Food and All Necessities Along With Them.

Special Correspondence of The Evening Star.

REYKJAVIK, Iceland, August 4, 1902. An excursion in Iceland is not the easy matter it is at home of buying a railway ticket, stepping aboard a train and lunching on the diner or at a station restaurant.

It is an affair of serious calculation and thought. Ponies must be hired, and a good many of them, if a long excursion is contemplated. Saddles must be procured, tents and fittings obtained; saddle boxes for the provisions and plenty of provisions to put in them, for, aside from milk, some bread, butter and perhaps coffee, you cannot get anything in the country, and often not even these necessities of life.

There are no railways in Iceland, either steam or electric, and no hotels outside of two or three of the larger places, and except small summer hostelries at Thingvellie and the geysers.

Moreover, there are but a comparatively few miles of carriage road in the island, and those recently constructed, and of wheeled vehicles you will not see half a dozen if you spend a month in Iceland, and those all in the vicinity of Reykjavik, where alone they can be used.

But the pony was one of the primitive modes of locomotion, and in Iceland you get back very near to nature's heart.

these accessories of traveling in Iceland add a touch of novelty and a new charm to the excursion, and remove it far from the conventionalities of modern travelmaking it a kind of continuous picnic. our hotel door when we were ready to

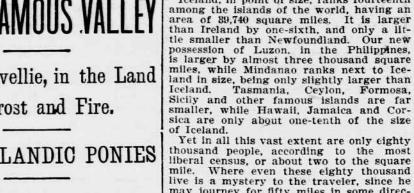
start for Thingvellie, the ancient meeting place of the althing. First our own ponies, addled and bridled; one pack pony with the provisions in a box on one side of his back balanced with our personal belongings on the other side; our guide's pony and finally a spare horse to be driven ahead with the pack pony. All these for two modst Americans on the comparatively short xcursion which we are about to take. If it was a longer trip we should have to

and two travelers would need at least ourteen animals; a spare pony for each ne and for the guides, and six pack ponies for the provisions and the tent.

A Sturdy Little Beast.

The Iceland pony is a gentle, sturdy little beast, sure footed and sometimes, though not always by any means, easy under the saddle. He is one of the "institutions" of Iceland, and deserves a long paragraph all to himself. In fact, he is almost as useful to the Icelander as the reindeer to the Lap or the cocoanut tree to the South Sea slander. He stands about eleven hands igh on an average, and is midway in size

ween a Shetland pony and an ordinary He is usually well cared for by his masis used to good treatment, is plump and sleek in summer and shaggy in winter,



thousand people, according to the most liberal census, or about two to the square Where even these eighty thousand live is a mystery to the traveler, since he may journey for fifty miles in some directions without seeing man, woman or child.
While we have been conning these statistics, which the easy jogging of our po-nies make possible, scenes of grandeur and sublimity open in every direction. Huge, fire-scarred mountain summits rise, one above the other. Mount Hecla, at one point, peers, snow capped, above its sister mountains, and great Jokull's elevated plains of ice suddenly come into view, glistening like marble mountains in the

Iceland, in point of size, ranks fourteenth

About twenty-five miles from Reykjavik, Thingvellie lake, a beautiful body of blue water twenty miles long, comes in sight, reflecting in its crystal depths the frowning mountains that overhang it.

A Two-Mile Rift.

Suddenly, without warning, the road eners a narrow defile; the ragged rocks tower on either hand for nearly a hundred feet, with their black precipitous walls, and we realize that we have entered the famous Almannagja or "All-mens-rift," by which the Althing or Icelandic parliament a thousand years ago entered as their unique meeting place under the open sky, on the green sward—the grandest and most won-derful house of parliament in all the world. This rift is two miles long, with precipi-tous walls of rock on either side, in many places nearly one hundred feet high, while over them in one place dashes a sparkling waterfall, so cold and clear and free from vegetable substance that even the trout, the lovers of cold, bright streams, cannot ive in it.

Down a steep descent our ponies trot, with the inclosing walls of frowning black rock so close on either hand that one could almost touch them in places with outstretched arm, until we come out on an open plain, some three miles wide by four

Within this wonderful rock-ribbed inclosure have the greatest deeds of Iceland been enacted. Here her laws were made and proclaimed and some of them executed. Here, for hundreds of years, her legislators came to discuss and wrangle and to fight-sometimes with weapons stouter than words, while thousands of the adherents of the old chiefs gathered to witness the

fights or to take part in them. This is the spot chiefly c Saga and Edda, in chronicle and poem. Every inch of soil is sacred to the true Ice lander, and every jutting rock bristles with

In all the world no more picturesque spot could be chosen for these annual delibera-tions and these annual wars of words and weapons. All-mens-rift is not alone, but in every direction the earth is rent and seamed with mighty chasms, sometimes sixty or eighty feet deep, with water twice as deep, clear and icy cold at the bottom. The general trend of these rifts is the ame, from northeast to southwest.

Scores of these rifts are seen, some so small that a boy can leap across them, others wide enough to float a man-of-war in he water at their murky depths. Evidenty in the cooling process of the prehistoric ages when Iceland was a mass of molten. seething lava the top cooled more rapidly, than the bottom and sprung apart, leaving these great fissures on the face of nature, while in later ages a great underground stream from the glaciers near made its way beneath them, filling many of the rifts and flowing silently into Thingvellie lake, never coming to the light of day except in some

of these dark caverns. About a quarter of a mile from All-mensrift is another parallel rift only sunk beneath the surface for two hundred feet instead of rising above it. This rift divides

into two arms, and between them, on a

grassy slope, the althing held its sitting. At the head of this slope a rock protrudes

ed this primitive parliament were pro-

Every foot of the soil is teeming with

historic interest. Here is the bloodstone near by, overhanging a frightful chasm,

with measureless water in the sunless depths, where the backs of criminals were

broken before they were dropped with an ominous splash into the pool below, which never gave up its dead.

On that green slope at the foot of All-mens-rift the althing of old and their ad-

herents built their summer booths of stone and sod, and the walls are still plainly vis-

ible, with an opening for the door on the

Sometimes, it is said, no less than 5,000

were encamped at one time on these slopes, and many a bloody conflict in those fierce

old days took place there.

Beyond the encampment, in the very

heart of All-mens-rift, is a wide pool, per-haps thirty feet in depth, in which adul-

teresses were thrown, though what was done with their equally guilty partners de-

Nearer the lake is a semi-circular in-closure in the rocks, which is surely the

strangest jury box ever made by nature or

as I can testify, they must have found the

Between the rift of the althing and All-

mens-rift, but nearer the latter, is the spot where, in the year 1000, Christianity was first preached and immediately preclaimed

Indeed, one can scarcely set his foot upon

Here the twelve good men and true. when they were drawn, must remain twen-ty-four hours to be challenged by either op-posing side, and most uncomfortable seats,

onent saith not.

ragged rocks.

he religion of the Islanu.



and lives off the country wherever he goes. requiring no grain, but browsing content-

edly on the short grass and low bushes that

the roadside His walk is fast, his canter tolerably easy, and his trot excruciating, racking one's bones and joints intolerably. Fortu-pately many of the Iceland ponies are paers, for their pace is a far easier gait than heir trot. The "new chum" in Iceland must see to it that he gets a pacer and not trotter, if he wishes to preserve his legs d spine from intolerable aches and his

emper from utter collapse. As we start out from Reyajarda oad strikes quickly inland from the sea soon mounts a considerable hill, from which we get a fine view of the town and the harbor with its shipping, a grand range of brown cliffs to the northwest and the noble Snaefells Jokull crowning the prom-ontory to the seaward. Inland, too, the ountains rise, tier on tier, some of them pare and brown, some snow flecked, and

ome snowclad, almost to their base. Everywhere one sees evidences of the flery volcanic throes through which Iceland came into being. Huge burnt-out craters toom on every side. Great pieces of lava, cometimes as large as a house, in places are piled beside the road, while lava plains, overed with smaller pieces of the once nolten rocks, pumice and ashes often exend for miles and miles from the very base of the snow mountains. It is indeed a land of frost and fire.

Such a lava plain stretches midway be-tween Reykjavik and Thingvellie, and it takes our sturdy ponies nearly two hours to cross it, even at their best pace.

Few People on the Way. Human habitations are excedingly scarce. After leaving the outskirts of Reykjavik I remember seeing but three farms in all the thirty-five miles at Thingvellie and, as from the heights of land in this clear atmosthere one can see an immense distance in very direction, it shows how few and far

any inch of soil in this wonderful valley that he does not tread on historic soil and often on soil that was bathed in blood in the rough and hardy days of old. But enough of Thingvellie, for next we must be off to the geysers.

F. E. C. between are the abodes of man in this great island.
While our ponies are jogging along over these lava plains it may be well to refresh pur minds about the size and population of bur minds about the size and population of this greatest island of the northern seas.

EXPLORERS IN PLENTY

Startling Finds That May Be

Made in 1902.

UNPARALLELED NUMBER OF PARTIES ABROAD NOW.

How Many Vexing Questions May Be Solved or New Ones

Opened.

Written for The Evening Star.

As the second year of the twentieth cen tury nears its end it sees a mighty effort being made in all fields to work out the story of the world-ethnologically, archaeologically, palaeontologically and geographically. There is hardly a spot on the earth's surface from New Zealand to the poles that is not being made the subject of energetic exploration.

Polar Expeditions. The poles and the polar regions never have been sought by so many expeditions at the same time. Besides the well-known ones in both the arctic and antarctic there are many smaller ones of which comparatively little has been said. A Norwegian relief expedition is searching now for Sverdrup, who started for the north pole in the famous Fram, which was last seen by Peary going north, fast in the ice, in a fierce arctic

Dr. Deichman of the old Amdrup expedition is working somewhere along the western coast of Greenland with the steamer Fox. A Danish expedition under Henry another experienced polar explorer, is studying the eastern coast of the same land. It consists of twelve men, and, as it carries provisions for one and one-half years, it evidently intends to work as far north as possible.

The steamship Laura is on the way north with the Swedish commission appointed to measure a degree. The leader of this party is Dr. Rubin. Dr. von Zipfel, an astrono-mer, and Lieutenant Duner, an expert mapmaker, accompany the expedition. They are provisioned for a year.

In connection with the German antarctic expedition, the Royal University of Goettingen has established a station on Upolu in Samoa for observations concerning earth magnetism, atmospheric electricity, meteorology and seismography, under the management of Dr. Tetgens. These observations are to be made simultaneously in many other parts of the world. Among other ex periments will be some to establish, if possible, the extent and cause of the oscilla tion of the world at the poles.

Deep Sea Searches. The German government is beginning its part of the work, agreed at the international conference at Stockholm, of a great systematic and comprehensive study of the hydrographical and biological features of the German and Baltic oceans and of the Polar sea of the eastern hemisphere. The coast survey ship Moeve has again taken up the work of exploring the Bismarck archipelago in the South seas, a task which will require years of work, including as it does deep sea soundings, ichthyological and zoological compilations, and the task of making a complete chart of all the groups of islands in that part of the

Tackling Africa.

Africa is being tackled from all directions and for all sorts of information. The French army captain Lenfant has penetrated the Niger for almost 1,000 miles with a small steamer, proving conclusively that the feared rapids that mark the river for one hundred and fifty miles are not insurmountable obstacles to navigation.

Colonel Montell of France has begun the work of laying out a telegraph line from southern Tunis to Lake Tchad on the other

side of the Desert of Sahara. From Tunis the dispatches are to go by another wire to Algiers and thence to the Balearic Islands and to Marseilles by wireless telegraphy. De Segonzac's Daring Trip. The town of Oran in Algeria recently celebrated a little occasion. It was the one thousandth anniversay of its existence. Part of the ceremonies consisted in a sesand told, in a dry, matter-of-fact, scientific

sion of a geographical congress. At that congress a man, burned almost black, arose way, of a little jaunt of almost 2,000 mlles that he had just finished. His trip had been through middle Morocco, which never be-fore had been visited by a European, and which the inhabiting Berbers had sworn never should be so visited. This man, whose name is Count R. de Bordon de Segonzac decided differently. So he worked his way as near the unknown land as he could, and then, obtaining disguises, he wandered on as an Arab. Despite his excellent knowledge of the manners, speech and customs of the Moroccans and the inhabitants of the Atlas mountains, he feared that they might penetrate his disgulse if they became quisitive as to his business. So he took advantage of the fact that Mohammedans believe that insane persons are under the especial care of Allah, and pretended to be insane. This assured him of respect and good treatment everywhere, and, although he had many narrow escapes, he managed to play his role to the end and make his way back to civilization with his valuable

head still on his shoulders. He saw the land of the Djabala, then crossed the Atlas mountain home of the Berbers, and, to end his trip pleasantly, he wandered through the country of the fa-mous and savage Riff pirates. There he "spoiled the Egyptians," for he gathered money in company with a begging pilgrim, in whose party he journeyed from tribe to tribe.

The Lost City of Miletus.

In Asia Minor the Imperial German Archaeological Institute has paid for excavations on the site of the famous ald temple of Gordium, and enough finds have been made to prove that the workers are digging out an ancient settlement that was great and flourishing 1,500 years before Christ. Other excavations in the peninsula of Miletus, on the Aegean sea, have produced results so tempting that private German capital has been furnished, with which the greater part of the peninsula has been purchased outright to assure successful will proprosecution of the work. The territory thus herself acquired comprises the site of the great Necropolis and the Sacred Way leading to the Temple of Apollo of Didyma, the greatest holy place of Asia Minor in its

This purchase, it is said now, will make far more wonderful place to visit than even Pompeii, for when the excavations are completed, a perfect dream city will have been unearthed. The entire hill in front of the city, crowned by the famous theater heto the excavators, also the ancient harbor basin with its entrance marked with wo colossal marble lions and with a port city with halls in it more than 300 feet

ong.
Included in the purchase also are the recently unearthed forum, the market place recently unearthed forum, of rare beauty, the with a Roman fountain of rare beauty, the baths and a mass of ruins that have not yet been examined or cleaned out.

Nimrod's City of Ur.

Engineering troops have been climbing around and delving in the ruins of Urfa on a branch of the Euphrates-old Ur, the city of Nimrod the Hunter, son of Ham, first ruler of Shinar. The engineers have been planning a railroad station on the site, perhaps, of the place where he used to entertain the great hunters of the Babylonian kingdom that he is said in old eastern tales to have founded. Prosaic mathematicians have been drawing up long statistics on the stone tables that remain intact on the rocks in front of Urfa and that still are pointed out as the tables at which Nimrod himself used to sit to drink his wine and tell, no doubt, of his narrow

When the steel rails are laid, they may

tradition of today, Abraham, the patriarch, designed to sacrifice his son Jacob.

The engineers have found that the ancient tales of the Euphrates as a mighty and terrible river were based on good grounds. They acknowledge in their reports that their modern science is going to meet with almost as great a problem there as did the science of the Babylonians; for in the time of the annual thaws far up in the mountains of Kurdistan and Armenia the river rises as much last eighteen feet and the river rises as much as eighteen feet and tears away everything that, is in its path. So the olden troubles of the yanished bridge

Devil Worshipers of Today.

in the hills east of Mosul on the Tigris,

near the ruins of Ninevah. The Turks call

Kurds, and recognize two forces only in the world—the good and the bad. Arguing

that the good cannot do any one harm, they worship the bad, in order to "keep

solid" with it. They dare not even mention the devil by name. If they refer to him at all, they call him "The Mighty King," or "The King Peacock."

The German explorers are making new

finds continually in the Black Hills beyond

The Land of Arab Kings.

The Arab tribes were extremely suspiciou

and inimical, and in Gishin the ruling sul-

held him for weeks, evidently in the ex-pectation of getting ransom, his views of life and liberty being as simple as those of his ancestors so far back as he could think. With true Arabic indifference he did

not consider Mrs. Hein at all, and, despis-ing her as being only a woman, he allowed

her to enjoy her freedom. She used it so well that one day a warship found its way

down the Arabian coast and the sultan

During his term of imprisonment Dr. Hein worked at his notes and reports from

early morning till dark, writing them on the clay floor of his jall.

Among other things which he brought

back with him are blossoms of the tree from which incense is obtained. It is found

only in the regions visited by him and its blossoms never had reached Europe before.

Amra, the Ghost Palace.

about exploration in Arabia. Besides Dr.

Hein's expedition the Vienna Academy

fitted out the expedition of a philologist

they discovered the famous, but, until then

never-seen ghost palace of Amra, which the Arab caravans had made known to

Europeans generations ago by their marvel-

ous tales. According to them it was beau-

Viennese expedition found it, thanks to the

were the results of this tour that the two

best they could and explored the Damas-cene desert with good results. But they

Battlefield Charts.

The Emperor of Germany is busy with a

unique project that will be of value to the

historical as well as the military world.

Some time ago he dispatched Colonel Janke

and the Captains von Bismarck, Von Ples-

sen and Von Marees to Asia Minor to make

topographical and photographical studies

and to draw up complete charts of the fa-

mous battlefields of Alexander the Great

The expedition was even more successful

than had been hoped for and returned with

so much material that important results are

expected from the work, which now is near-

ing its completion in Berlin under personal

superintendence of the emperor.
Especially good charts and pictures have

been obtained of the field of the Issus,

where Alexander conquered Darius 2,235 years ago, and the battle of the Cranikos,

where he beat the Persians a year before

Laws of Persia, 1000 B. C.

The French explorer, De Morgan, who

has been excavating in Susiana, in Persia,

has found not one buried city, but a half a

dozen of them, one on top of the other.

other there had the amiable habit of destroy-

ing everything and building their own city,

according to their own tastes, on the ruins.

So it happens that, as the De Morgan ex-

pedition excavated, it unearthed one city

below the other. Gradually the entire lost

minican Father Shell, who accompanies this

party as lector, now has an occupation that

historians all over the world water. He dis-

will make the mouths of archaeologists and

covered a stone column that is covered with

cuneiform writings. He has deciphered

enough already to know that these writings

represent laws and statutes that were pro-

mulgated in Persia one thousand years be

fore Christ was born. This will make a

prize for the world when the work is fin

The Queen of Sheba.

Even the stolid and not easily impressed

Many ancient figures of marble and

bronze were found, and these and old coins

that were found were transported to Sana

where the governor general has formed a

commission to examine the finds and report

on them, which will, no doubt, be done in the regular course of placid Turkish events.

Is the Great Aepyornis Alive?

In Madagascar a local French academy

has been organized under the authority of

the government. It is to consist of thirty

members. At present its has sixteen-

Frenchmen, Scandinavians, Germans and

the Academy of Tananarivo, and the mem-

bers propose to study the mysterious and

practically unknown island from end to end for everything from the folk lore to the creatures that inhabit it.

The romantic side of their efforts will be

the opportunity that they will have of finally answering the old question as to the

possible survival of the gigantic Aepyornis bird in the far interior. The story that this enormous creature still stalks in the prime-

val wilderness is one that comes year by year out of that land. Some scientists have not hesitated to admit that it might be

true. There is nothing inherently impossi-ble about it. The Aepyornis is not a crea-

ture belonging to a past geological era. It is a creature that has been killed off by man within measurable historical time. So

it may be that some fine morning the world

Apparently.

will be startled by learning of another wo der of the dim past being caught alive.

history of Persia was laid bare. The Do-

that.

found no more ghost palaces.

lost his prospective ransom suddenly.

tan finally imprisoned the explorer.

thousand years before Christ.

Havre as a Landing Place for American Goods. builders may be experienced again by the

A PROSPEROUS PORT These railroad engineers also have enabled the world to learn something at last OUR EXPORT TRADE AND HOW IT about the mysterious and notorious devil worshipers of Asiatic Turkey, who dwell MAY BE INCREASED.

them Extinguishers of Lights. They are Enormous Wealth of the French People - Thrifty Farmers which an American typewriter was clicking and Fine Horses.

HAVRE. France.

(Copyright, 1902, by Frank G. Carpenter.) Special Correspondence of The Evening Star.

Babylon. A recent excavation has un-earthed a temple of a god of physicians. I have crossed from England to France The chemical examination of Babylonian and am now in the city of Havre, the great copper and bronze articles has convinced the explorers that the Babyionians under-stood the art of making bronze out of an port on the English channel at the mouth of the Seine. This is one of the most important commercial points of north Eualloy of copper and antimony at least five rope. It is the gateway from the Atlantic, not only to Paris and France, but to Switzerland and southwestern Germany, and for Dr. William Heln, assistant curator of many classes of goods to Holland and Belthe Museum of Natural History of Vienna, gium as well. It vies with Marseilles as and his wife have returned from a daring the chief port of the French, and it is the and adventurous trip through southern chief landing place of the American inva-Arabia, the land of independent kings, who never have recognized the rule of Turkey. goods were loaded or discharged here. and whose names mostly are not known to the world at all. The tour was undertaken for the Vienna Academy of Sciences. It lasted six months and was successful, despite the critical position in which the Three-fourths of all the cotton which we ship to France comes to Havre, and also the bulk of our machinery, breadstuffs and notions. couple found themselves more than once.

Before I describe Havre let me give you a bird's-eve glimpse of this land of the We are apt to look upon the European states as comparatively small, and the average American does not realize their population and wealth.

France is no six by nine province, either in area or richness. She is one of the largest countries of Europe. She is more than four times as big as New York or Pennsylvania, five times as big as Ohio and eve twenty times the size of Maryland. With a single exception, of Texas, we have no state as large and none. I venture, which is uniformly so rich in its agricultural pred-ucts. France has some of the richest soil of Europe, and almost every bit of it is good land. It ranks next to Germany. Austria-Hungary and Russia in area, and its people are the thriftiest of the whole European continent.

Austria has shown remarkable enthusiasm The French Farmers Are Rich. The population of France is more than 38,000,000, or about half as large as that of the United States. It has only about the Rev. Dr Alois Musil, and the painter, 3,000,000 less people than Great Britain and Hans Mielich, to explore the land of Edom Ireland, but there the country is owned by in northwestern Arabia. In their first trip the lords and the rich. It is one of vast estates and the most of it is pasture rather than cultivated farms. Indeed, all the farm lands of the united kingdom are held by about 19,000 men. In France there are more than three and a half million land owners ous tales. According title walls were decorated by magnificent paintings that were guarded and the average holding is less than six by djinns and other evil spirits of the desert. No man ever had approached it and lived, according to the tradition. The acres The French farmers have always made money. They know how to till the soil as well as, if not better, than any other people on earth, and they till it so friendship of an Arab chief, who turned out to be quite the Arab of romance—lion-hearted, handsome, loyal and the soul of hospitality and truthfulness. So enticing well that they practically support and feed themselves. They raise more than three hundred million bushels of wheat every year, and it is only when their crop is short that they have to import breadstuffs explorers tried another trip to the unknown desert country. But this time they were not so fortunate with the Arab chiefs. In from us. About four men out of every ten are engaged in farming, and it is estimated that one-fifth of all the French earnings come from the soil. France grows more wheat in proportion to its population than European nation except Russia. Her land has been farmed hundreds of years. but by careful culture it still yields far more per acre than ours.

Intensive farming is carried on almost everywhere. There are market gardens scattered throughout northern France which ship their products to England. I saw loads of French vegetables in the mar-kets of London, and when I was at Manchester last spring the ships were starting out for the Channel Islands and norther France for new potatoes. About 30,000,000 pounds of potatoes are annually shipped from Cherbourg to London, and the first of the crop comes on as early as February, the potatoes being raised under glass. all France it is estimated that more than 1,000,000 acres are devoted to market gardening, and that the average yield per acre is more than \$167 per annum. There

is an early vegetable farm of 180 acres near Cherbourg that brings in \$14,000 a year. It is such culture that creates the demand fo our plows, cultivators and the smaller farm tools.

The Woolen Stockings of France. The farmers of France have always been noted for their thrift. They are good cusomers because they can pay for what they buy. Nearly every peasant, man or woman, has money in the savings bank or in stocks or hidden away somewhere in an old woolen stocking. When De Lesseps was pouring millions nto the Panama canal he was asked where

The conquerors as they succeeded each the money came from. He replied: "From the woolen stockings of France, where there are still hundreds of millions more. It was these same stocking hoards that paid the cost of the Franco-German war, the greatest payment ever made by one naion to another. The cost of the war and indemnity amounted to more than \$3,000,000,000. The government issued bonds. and the peasant farmers of France brought out their stockings and bought them. Since then these stockings have again become full, and although France has a national debt of almost seven billion dollars it is held by its own people. They receive the interest, and they have millions upon mil-lions to spend for what they want, whether it be furnished by Great Britain, Germany, America or themselves. The people live as well as any people in the world. They dress vell and spend well, and in wants they furnish a possible market ten times as great as all China, with its 500,000,000 people.

What the French Buy.

or curious Turks have joined the explorers. In Yemen, which is a part of Arabia where their rule really is more than nominal, so Indeed, the French stand high among the that they can dig without danger of being purchasing nations. Their imports amount swooped on by obnexious desert kings, the to over \$2,000,000 a day, or to more than Turks have come on the tracks of no less \$\$50,000,000 a year. This is over \$400,a personage than the Queen of Sheba, the 000,000 more than our total importations. delightful lady of fashion who visited Soloand the bulk of the money goes to the mon. The Turks have unearthed fine mar-European nations, although our trade is ble tablets, uncommonly well preserved, with a vast amount of inscription dating slowly and steadily increasing. It has gained about \$18,000,000 in ten years, while back so far that the excavators are en-couraged to hope that some of them really he gain in Great Britain and Ireland has been thirteen times as much.

One reason for this is that the French will prove to be edicts of the famous queer

are in many things like the Americans. They show as much taste in finishing their manufactures as they do in making fancy hats and dresses: they are a race of inventors, and hence American novelties are not in so great demand. They believe also in trade protection, and the government contracts often specify that the materials used shall be of French manufacture. ertheless, the market is a most valuable one and one that can be worked with great profit. Something of what is now done will be seen as I take you through this city of Havre.

A Look at Havre.

English, with three natives. It is named Havre is a typical French seaport. Its streets are wide, its houses bright and sunny, it has open places and gardens in the heart of the town, and its docks are great stone structures with all modern conveniences for loading and discharging goods. The town has existed since the days of the Romans, and it has always been an important commercial center. The United States had a consulate here as far back as 1800, and today our consulate, situated on the Place Gambetta, in the heart of the city, does about as much business as any other.

Havre now has about 120 000 people. The town lies right on the sea, with highlands on the east and the Seine on the west. In coming here from Southampton my first coming here from Southampton my first sight was the abrupt cliffs on the left of the city. When we came a little nearer I could see the masts of the ships inside the docks and then the low buildings which border the shore. There is a series of fortifications with frowning cannon facing the sea which guards the entrance, and you steam in hetween great stone guays or steam in between great stone quays or docks, just wide enough for two Atlantic liners to pass in or out at the same tim.

the docks extend on and on with gateways between them, permeating almost every part of the city. There are many acres of them, so made that the ships can sail right up to the warehouses and discharge their goods, and so that goods can be put upon the railroads or on the canals for all parts of France.

of France.

There is one dock in the very heart of the town facing the Place Gambetta. This is reserved for yachts, and there were a score or more of steam yachts lying in it when I visited it this afternoon. One of these belongs to the Baron Rothschild and another is, I am told, the property of one of the Vanderbilts.

Signs of the American Invasion. The first sign I saw of the American invasion was one of the transatlantic liners coming in from New York loaded with American petroleum, agricultural machinery and cotton. As we came to the quay I saw a well-known brand of Akron oats adver-tised on the walls of a building that must have been a century old, and in walking to the Hotel Frascati I passed an office in

Later on I called at the consulate, and, in company with Mr. A. M. Thackara, who is Uncle Sam's representative here, took a drive of several miles, going from one dock to another and stopping at the various places where steamers were unloading American goods.

At the transatlantic quay we visited a warehouse as large as any in the city of New York. It was packed to the top with boxes and bales from different parts of the United States. I saw American plows unloaded from one of the Atlantic liners and outside were reapers, mowers and all sorts of farm tools of well-known American

At another dock I found the wharves covered with bales of American cotton. There were many thousands of these, covering an area of several acres. They were lying on the stones out in the sun. The cotton was poorly packed; some of the bales were open sion. Last year about 4,000,000 tons of and the white wool seemed to be bursting out in every direction. I hear complaints everywhere about the poor packing of our merchandise, and espacially about the poor-ly packed cotton. Complaints are common at Manchester and Liverpool, and unfavorable comparisons are made as to our ship-pers and those of India and Egypt. The custom officers were sampling the bales while I passed through the cotton wharves. French to show you that it is well worth your consideration in pushing your trade. They opened each bale and took out a bundle in order to assess the duty upon it. They did their work well, but it seemed to me that the amount of cotton removed was unnecessarily large.

The Big Horses of France.

The hauling of the cotton from one part of the wharves to another is done by Percheron horses, finer than any horses employed about the wharves of New York. I saw one hauling fifteen cotton bales which must have weighed on the average 500 pounds each, and I find that the usual French load for one horse is from three to five tons. In the country one horse is expected to haul at least three tons, and this pected to haul at least three tons, and this is so throughout north France. The horses are well kept and are apparently no worse for such loads. They compare favorably with the Clydesdale and Shire horses which L described in my letters from Liverpool, and they will haul about as large loads. The streets along the Havre docks are naved with capables and see feet. The streets along the Havre docks are an attacking party. If 1 and 3 win the paved with cobbles, and as far as I can game at "table blue" they carry a blue see they are no better than similar streets flag to "table red." So it will go on through in New York. In the country the roads are macadamized. You can drive for hundreds of miles and not find a rough place, so that horses can haul great loads.

Nearly all the hauling here is done upon one-horse carts. If there is a second horse feet wide, with shafts about half the thick- taches to the fact that the four players who ness of telegraph poles. The shafts are on hinges, and the loads are raised and low-ered by means of a windlass where the shafts join and on the left of the cart. This windlass also binds ropes about the loads to hold them on. The wheels are about as high as the hind wheels of a farm wagon, and the average cart itself will weigh, I should think, about a ton. All weights are estimated in kilograms, and I was shown loads which I was told weighed as much as 5,000 kilograms hauled by one horse. It is roughly estimated that 1,000 kilograms equal one ton. Among the curious exports I see here are

drled apples from New York and corn oil cake from Chicago. The dried apples are used for making French cider and are brought here from America for that purpose. France takes something like 11,000,-000 pounds of such apples every year.

The cider made from them is sold at all

the restaurants and cafes. It costs but a few cents a glass, and it is better than any hard cider I have ever tasted in the United States. The corn oil cake is a refuse of our Indian corn after the oil has been squeezed out of it. It is used for feeding, as is also American cottonseed meal and oil cake. The corn cake I saw came from Chicago. Another of our queer exports which is now coming to Havre is Camembert cheese. This is surprising to the French, for they consider this cheese one of their specialties, and it is only within a few miles of this port that the most of their product is made.

Points for American Lumber Men. Havre is one of the largest wood markets of Europe. I saw vast quantities of wood of all kinds during my trip about the wharves. From one they were discharging mahogany logs about thirty feet long and two feet square, and from another they were taking off vast quantities of logwood for use in the dye factories of France. I saw considerable American oak and pine and Consul Thackara tells me that such shipments might be greatly increased if our people were more careful in their sawing. The French customs laws permit the free entry for cabinet making of wood which is eight inches or more in thickness. Owing to our poor sawing the American wood often arrives a shade under this size, and the man who orders it has to the duty. The result is he stops at one order. There is also a good demand for our oak boards and planks, provided they are sawn to the right thickness, but at present the Austrian wood is crowding the American wood out because it is better seasoned

and more carefully prepared. American Machinery in France. I am surprised at the amount of American

machinery I see about the docks. The warehouses are full of it and the streets outside are blocked by it. In addition to farm implements there are packages of carpet sweepers, meat grinders and ice cream gets started out again as 'religious junk' it freezers. There are also large importations will all be anonymous and wanting in that of electrical machinery, and within the past few years the Westinghouse company has established a factory at Havre to supply the French market. It has a large building on the edge of the city where a number of bright young Americans superintend the Frenchmen who do the rough work. company has a French name, being entitled "Societe Industrielle d'Electricite, Procedes Westinghouse." Its capital is ten million francs, or about two million dollars During my ride about the wharves with Consul Thackara I asked him to give me some points for American shippers. He replied that the market is not properly un-derstood by more than fifty of our leading American firms.
"These firms" said Mr. Thackara, "have thoroughly studied the subject. They have their own agents on the ground, and have dianapolis News.

systematized their business after the French methods. They pack their goods as the French want them, and are willing to accept the usual terms of credit. The French have been accustomed to receiving such terms from the English and Germans, and if Americans will not give the same terms they refuse to deal with them. The average American wants his money in advergage age American wants his money in advance, or on receipt of the goods, but this will not do in the majority of instances here.

Catalogues of Little Value.

"Many of our shippers are sending catalogues of machinery and other American products printed in English," continued Mr. Thackara. "Such catalogues go into the waste baskets, for the average customer cannot read them. They should be printed in French, and all measures should be in the French metric system, and prices preferably in French money.

"Some of our houses are sending travelers into France. This is very well if the man understands the French language, if not, he had better be kept at home and a French agent employed. An agent should not be expected to cover any more territory here than he would be required to cover in the United States, and when foreign agents are employed, representa ives from the home offices should visit them at least once a year. I don't think our ship-pers appreciate the possibilities of the French market. These people spend a vast deal of money every year for foreign goods, and the bulk of their imports are from ether parts of Europe. American goods are popular, and especially American machinery and American tools. I hope that there will be a great increase in our trade with France with the increase in our shipping, and that we will now regularly see American ships in this harbor. At present we get quantities of American goods, but they all come in vessels under foreign flags. I have been in office here for five years, and I have seen only three American flags flying from American steamers during that time." FRANK G. CARPENTER.

A NEW GAME.

It Promises to Drive Out Progressive From the New York Commercial Advertiser.

A new game which promises to be in

great vogue during the coming winter is "military euchre." It has some of the features of progressive euchre, but brings about an even more joily combination of players than that popular amusement. There may be any number of tables. Each must have a chosen color, and each is distinguished by its color. Attached to the back of one of the chairs at each table is a sheaf of flags of the chosen color. Instead of plain colors, however, flags of all nations may be chosen, which will add a good deal to the vivacity of the game and also considerably to the expense. The players have Nos. 1 and 2 for the women and 3 and 4 for the men. When the first game is called two of the players from "table red." say Nos. 1 and 3, leave their table to go to capture a flag from "table blue." Nos. 2 and 4 will remain at "table red" to de-fend their own flags from the two players who have come from "table green" to capture them. Meanwhile two players from "table blue" have gone to "table green" as the evening. At each table there will always be a couple who will be on the de-fensive seeking to keep the home flags, while two others of the table are away on an attacking party bent on capturing the Neariy all the hauling nere is done upon one-horse carts. If there is a second horse it goes in front of the one in the shafts, three and four-horse teams sometimes being so hitched up tandem. The carts have flat beds about fifteen feet long and three lequal value. The interest to the game attacking party bent on capturing the flags of other colors. In the end the table belse or retained on its own sheaf—will be ing so hitched up tandem. The carts have lequal value. The interest to the game attacking party bent on capturing the construction. start out to play together remain allies throughout the evening, though varieties in the couples are introduced as the game progresses. Sometimes the two men will go away on an attacking party and sometimes the two women in which case their approach the two women, in which case their oppo-nents are of the opposite sex. But the end is always the same-to gain new flags and to keep the home flags in their place. The entire game is systematically worked out. Cards are provided marked with the number of games to be played during the evening, one for each table. On it plain directions for the scouting parties are given. Opposite game No. 1 it will say, "Couple 1 and 3 go to blue;" opposite game No. 2, "2 and 4 go to green," and so on, so that there will be no confusion, but a symmetrical moving of players from table to table. The bell will pass from table to table as the game progresses. The cards when once ng, one for each table. On it plain directhe game progresses. The cards when once made out will serve for the entire season by using the same colors and the same number of tables at succeeding games.

AN ODD COLLECTION.

Why a Book Lover Buys Old Bibles and Hymn Books.

From the Detroit Free Press.

"All book collectors have their weaknesses," remarked a man who is often seen poring over the sidewalk counters of second-hand book shops, "and mine, I confess, runs in the line of old Bibles and hymn books. Not particularly because they are Bibles and hymn books, but because I simply can't stand it to see such books tossed about as dusty, almost worthless second-hand goods. Except in the case of rare old Bibles or quite ancient hymn books, such books cost but a trifle. Religious books, as a rule, are almost unsalable in a second-hand shop, and I buy a great many, only, however, such as tain family names and inscriptions of pa-

thetic character. "My first purchase of the kind was an Episcopal prayer book, battered and torn, with the name of an old friend of mine in gilt on the cover. It gave me a shock to find it on a second-hand counter, so I paid the required dime and carried it home. The man is deed and his children in the man man is dead and his children are living in other cities, well to do. I have no idea how his prayer book became public property.
People are queer. I offered it to a remote
relative of the former owner, but she said
she didn't care about it. Since then I have bought in other old family Bibles and nymn books which belonged to people I had known or which contain interesting written matter. It is pitiful to see a Bible in-scribed 'To my dear son Henry, from his devoted mother,' or 'Elizabeth, from a lov-ing father,' or 'Little William's birthday gift to Uncle William.

"When these books come into my hands I erase or tear out the inscriptions, and if my shelf of old Bibles and hymn books ever distressing quality which has made me, perhaps, absurdly sentimental over it.

A Sign of Progress in Canada. rom the Toronto Globe.

The appearance of Canadian departmental reports dated 1-2 Edward VII is a reminder that the present is an excellent opportunity to abandon this awkward and unreasonable method of dating statutes and official pub-lications. The calendar year should be adopted, instead of pursuing a method that is, to say the least, extremely insular.

'I have only the most distant relatives." "Has the family run out?"
"No; they have all become rich."—In-



THE SATURDAY STAR lead over those very stone benches and tables. They will pass by the holy lake of Abraham, with its sacred fish. By its banks, according to the local Mohammedan of the local Mohamm